DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION/Military Prisoner Pay Forfeiture

SUBJECT: National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1996 . . . S. 1026. Boxer amendment No. 2117.

ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 97-3

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 1026, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1996, will authorize \$264.7 billion in total budget authority for the Department of Defense, national security programs of the Department of Energy, civil defense, and military construction accounts. This amount is \$7 billion more than requested (\$5.3 billion more for procurement and \$1.7 billion more for research and development), and is \$2.6 billion less than the amount approved in the House-passed bill.

The Boxer amendment would amend the section of the bill that will bar military convicts from collecting pay while they appeal their convictions through the military court system. Instead of requiring forfeiture of pay and allowances within 21 days of being sentenced, the Boxer amendment would require forfeiture within 14 days of being sentenced.

Those favoring the amendment contended:

Late last year we first learned that the Department of Defense allows convicted military criminals to continue to collect their pay while they appeal their sentences. We immediately began work in a bipartisan spirit to make the necessary changes to law to stop that payment. The resulting language in the bill has the support of most Members. The Boxer amendment, which would cut off these criminals' pay even faster, is also certain to have the support of most Senators.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to the amendment.

(See other side)

| YEAS (97) | | | | NAYS (3) | | NOT VOTING (0) | |
|---|---|---|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Republican (51 or 94%) | | Den | Democrats | | Democrats (0 or 0%) | Republicans | Democrats (0) |
| | | (46 or 100%) | | (3 or 6%) | | (0) | |
| Abraham Ashcroft Bennett Bond Brown Burns Campbell Chafee Coats Cochran Cohen Coverdell Craig D'Amato DeWine Dole Domenici Frist Gorton Gramm Grams Grassley Gregg Hatfield Helms | Hutchison Inhofe Jeffords Kassebaum Kempthorne Kyl Lott Lugar Mack McCain McConnell Murkowski Nickles Packwood Pressler Roth Santorum Shelby Simpson Smith Snowe Specter Stevens Thomas Thurmond Warner | Akaka Baucus Biden Bingaman Boxer Bradley Breaux Bryan Bumpers Byrd Conrad Daschle Dodd Dorgan Exon Feingold Feinstein Ford Glenn Graham Harkin Heflin Hollings | Inouye Johnston Kennedy Kerrey Kerry Kohl Lautenberg Leahy Levin Lieberman Mikulski Moseley-Braun Moynihan Murray Nunn Pell Pryor Reid Robb Rockefeller Sarbanes Simon Wellstone | Faircloth Hatch Thompson | | EXPLANAT 1—Official I 2—Necessar 3—Illness 4—Other SYMBOLS: AY—Annou AN—Annou PY—Paired PN—Paired | nced Yea nced Nay Yea |